RECORDS OF THE WAR

A Mammoth Work Being Prepared at the War Department.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY VOLUMES

To be Thoroughly Colorless and Impartial.

THE STORY OF A STORY



HE BIGGEST LITrary work ever undertaken in America

in the world, but it has for its subject, as forty-two parts were issued in his lifetime. its name indicates, the greatest conflict of ancient or modern times. The preparation of this brobdignag work, it is announced, will be practically finished by the close of the next fiscal year. It was begun just twenty years ago, and in the process of evolution has assumed undreamed-of proportions; but the fact that it is now progressing rapidly toward completion will be sure to excite renewed public interest in it.

The whole work when completed will embrace 120 huge royal octavo volumes of 1.000 pages each, and a gigantic atlas, and the ultimate cost will be something like \$2,500,000. Each separate book in a set is three inches thick and weighs from 50 to 60 ounces, and the combined weight of an entire set will be 520 pounds, while the volumes, if set up in a row on a single shelf of one's library, would extend a distance of 80 feet. Eleven thousand copies will be printed, so that the edition will comprise 1,320,000 books of 1,000 printed pages, aggregating 1,320,000,000 pages of matter, ex-

gating 1,320,000,000 pages of matter, exclusive of the atlas.

Up to this date, 89 serial volumes have been published and about \$1,800,000 has been spent in all branches of the work, or about \$20,000 per volume. This average may be somewhat reduced in the later volumes, but in the main it is expected to obtain throughout. The printing and binding alone cost \$10,000 per volume, while the previous preparation of each volume for the printer's hands costs an equal sum of \$10,000.

Plan of the Work. Plan of the Work.

The completed work will embrace four series. The first series begins, as to subthe matter to be published, to correct and verify the orthography of the papers used, and then deals in regular chronological order with all the military eperations in the field—scouts, skirmishes, raids, marches, battles, expeditions and deges, together with the correspondence, orders and returns relating thereto. The atlas accompanying it will contain 150 least the matter to be published, to correct and verify the orthography of the papers used, and occasionally to add needful notes of explanation. Maj. Davis has proven himself to be admirably qualified for his position as head of the board. He exercises a general supervision of the official records from which the history is made. Mr. Perry has special charge of the preparation of the second series, relating to prisoners of war, and is assisted by two ex-confederate. ject matter, with the formal official reports, sieges, together with the content of the orders and returns relating thereto. The atlas accompanying it will contain 150 atlas accompanying it will contain 150 plates of maps and plans, illustrating the movements described in the text. The second series will contain the official correspondence and reports on both sides relating to prisoners of war and to state or political prisoners. The third series will cover matters not specially related to the subjects treated in the first and second, such as the annual and special reports of the Secretary of War, of the general-inchief and of the chiefs of the several staff correspond of the calls for troops and correspondence between the national and state authorities; while the corps and departments, besides the calls for troops and correspondence between the national and state authorities; while the fourth series will exhibit the corresponding of official papers that do not happen to be on file in the department are being recoverconfederate authorities in the same line as those of the Union officials set forth in the ies. The first series, however, is tory, and will consist of 104 volumes or parts. The other three series together will make up only 16 additional volumes. According to the numbering originally mapped but for the volumes of the first series, it would appear that only 50 volumes were designed to be embraced in it; but some of se 50 have been expanded into as many r and five parts each, of equal size with the others, and hence as a matter of act the number of serial volumes in the list series has been increased to 104. The first serial volume treats of opera-ions at Charleston and the secession of the

southern states. The second takes Bull Run and other early actions of less aportance. The third, eighth, nineteenth, nd and thirty-third numbers conthe war in Missouri and adjacent states. The sixth, twentieth, forty-first, forty-second, forty-seventh, sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth discuss the operations on the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The battle of Shiloh and other Tennessee, Kentucky and sissippi campaigns are detailed in serial volumes ten and eleven; the Peninsular teampaign is given in numbers twelve, thirteen and fourteen, and the Vicksburg operations are described in numbers twenty-one, thirty-six, thirty-seven and thirty-eight. nia, culminating at Antietam in 1862, is out in serial numbers twenty-seven and twenty-eight. Morgan's raid and numberss other raids are described in parts thin ty-four and thirty-five. Gettysburg and the New York draft riots are narrated in numbers forty-three, forty-four and forty-five, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge are re-lated in numbers fifty to fifty-six, inclu-sive, and the Wilderness and Spottsylvania in numbers sixty-seven, sixty-eight and eixty-nine. Five parts, numbers seventytwo to seventy-six, inclusive, are devoted to the Atlanta campaign under the head of vol. XXXVIII, and three more, numbers ninety-eight, ninety-nine and 100, to the campaign of the Carolinas. The operations around Richmond and Petersburg from 1864 to the close at Appomattox are given in the volumes formally numbered forty, forty-two and forty-six, covering nine parts or serial numbers. The final volume of the series preceding the general index, num-bered fifty, or serial number 103, will be devoted exclusively to operations on the Pa-

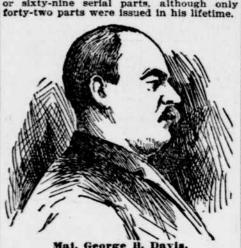
An Impartial Record. The method of treatment pursued

throughout is altogether impartial, nonpartisan and colorless. The official docupartisan and colorless. The official documents, printed and arranged in the natural mechanical features of the work of preparing text. The number now engaged is 30, all of whom are thoroughly trained and order of the events they treat of, are allowed to tell their own "plain, unvarnished tale," and no comments, remarks, opinions or narrative. Nothing is printed in the voltimes except duly authenticated contemporaneous records of the war, and newspaper accounts and private reports are rigidly ex-

period to be covered by each volume are gone over with the utmost care, and only such matter is selected as should be printed. This matter is then copied and after-ward compared with the originals, and significant memoranda are attached to the coples showing the particular files whence the originals were taken, and the names of the persons who copied them. Then the matter thus copied is compiled and arranged chron-clogically according to days and even hours, when there is a point to be observed, where-upon the whole is properly headed throughout, supplied with a title page and sent to the public printer. When the proofs come every page, report and message is diligently verified, resort being had frequently to the original documents in case of doubt or perplexity. Finally each volume is in-



most extraordinary history of the most extraordinary history of the most extraordinary war on record—is full of interest to every reader of books. The manner of had free on application. The eighty-nine METEORIC ODDITIES its publication is in many respects unique, and some of the methods employed are peculiar to itself. The first definite steps to execute the gigantic work were taken in 1874, when Congress passed a law providing the necessary means to enable the Secretary of War to begin publication; but some essential preliminaries were gone through with ten years before that date. The preparation of the records for public use was set in motion in 1864, under a resolution of Congress, by Adjutant General E. D. Townsend, U. S. A., who caused copies to be made of reports of battles on file in his office, and devised measures for the collection of missing records. Gen. Townsend first outlined the plan on which the records are printed, although the scheme he had in mind contemplated the publication only of the more important military reports. Until 1877, however, the work was prosecuted in a desultory way by various subordinate officers in the War Departent. Then the Secretary of War, Geo. W. McCrary, perceiving that the undertaking needed the undivided attention of a single head, detailed Lieut. Col. Robert N. Scott of the army to take the necessary means to enable the Secretary dertaken in America is the military history now being produced by Uncle Sam under the title of t



Maj. George B. Davis. Lieut. Col. H. M. Lazelle of the army served as Col. Scott's successor for two years, and then, by an act passed in 1889, the preparation and publication of the records were ordered to be conducted under the direction of the Secretary of War by a board of three persons-one an army officer and the other two civilian experts. The board of publication thus constituted, continuing unchanged to the present time, consists of Maj. George B. Davis, judge advo-cate of the U. S. army, as the military member, and Leslie J. Perry, esq., of Kan-sas, and Joseph W. Kirkley, esq., of Mary-land, as civilian experts. The scope of the board's duty is to decide upon and arrange the matter to be published, to correct and erate generals—Gen.L. L. Lomax of Virginia and Gen. John B. Erwin of South Carolina. Mr. Kirkley is the technical expert and historical wizard of the combination, and without question knows more about the war records than any other man living, was not as an exhaustive study of them.

Who weds at eighteen takes marriage and maternity with the never-thinking mind of youth. The young woman who remains single until she is well into her twenties has had time to look about her, to think has had time to look about her to think has had time to look about her to think has had time to look about her to think his is accomplished nobody knows, but the out a sort of roaring sound like a port fire. tions is to carry each volume through the press and look after the accuracy and veri-fication of every record and statement

therein contained. these papers are autograph messages and reports written by the officers in command gument would not hold. of the various armies and divisions engaged in the struggle, and altogether they form a priceless collection. Mr. Marcus J. Wright erves in the capacity of special agent in the recovery of missing records, and Gen. A. P. Stewart of Mississippi, corps com-mander of the Army of Tennessee, is con-stantly engaged in examining and editing the archives of the dead confederacy, in addition to other ex-confederate and Union officers. The bulk of the confederate ar-chives was obtained by the government on the fall of Richmond. Immediately on the confederate evacuation the Union troops took possession of the dozen odd buildings in which they were stored, but unfortunately some important papers were never filed there, some were destroyed and some remained in the hands of scattered individ-



43, as originally plotted. The first volume of the second series is now ready for constituting an independent bureau of the War Department, and ranging from 30 to 70 in number at different times, has been

Of the whole 120 volumes, and of the accompanying atlas of 30 parts, so Maj. Davis states, those now unfinished will be ready for publication by the close of the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1895, and the unpardonable crime for which the mother task of printing these will then receive the concentrated attention of the board, who will, as heretofore, directly oversee the pro-cess as it goes forward at the government printing office. The conclusion of the his- among the upper classes. Out from the tory will doubtless be a great event in the ranks of the poor and unlettered will

familiar with the ramifications of the sub-

The distribution of the printed volumes as The distribution of the printed volumes as poets, scholars and reformers, who shall plan in accordance with a law of the Forty. plan,in accordance with a law of the Forty-seventh Congress, passed in 1882. Of the 11,000 copies ordered to be printed, 1,000 are worthy offspring, and give place to others set aside for the various executive departments, 1,000 are reserved for distribution by the Secretary of War among army officers and contributors to the work, 8,300 copies are being sent to such libraries, posts, organizations, and individuals as measured on the secretary of the work of the wo ganizations and individuals as were designated to receive them by Senators, Representatives and delegates of the Forty-sevithrones and fortunes. enth Congress, and the 700 copies over are for sale at the War Department at 10 per cent above the bare cost of printing, the department at 10 per cent above the bare cost of printing, the department at 10 per cent above the bare cost of printing. cent above the bare cost of printing, the proceeds to be covered into the treasury. proceeds to be covered into the treasury. day when great wealth, too, shall reach Each Senator was permitted to designate its limit with each generation, and a motive treasury. twenty-six addresses for the reception of the forthcoming volumes and each Representative and delegate twenty-one, the ad-

dresses holding good for the entire set, until the publication is complete.

An interesting fact concerning the dis-tributees was developed by an inquiry re-cently instituted by the war records office, from which it was learned that of the original beneficiaries 500 have, by reason of death or removal, ceased to receive the sets intended for them. As a result, there are on hand 500 sets, beginning with Vol. XXX, which are not available for distribution on account of the lack of earlier volumes. As the stereotyped plates have been preserved, it will be easy to issue a reprint at slight cost. The department, therefore, recommends that authority be given to reprint 500 copies of volumes I to XXX, with a view to their new distribution.

view to their new distribution.

Popular interest in the work all over the country is reported to be steadily increasing, and the war records office is now suffering from a deluge of inquiries respecting the cost and means of obtaining copies. The story of this story of the war—the

A Broker's Humor.

A Broker's Humor.

From the tornado and the was engaged in running an opposition to the savin' these tolmes. What's th' use the same thing. Broker—'I hear that you have gone into the drug business.''

Broker's Humor.

From the Kansas City Journal.

Broker's Humor.

From the stars dity Journal and the was engaged in running an opposition to the government mints. One of his freshmade coins dropped out of the water spout are the same things. Under the story of the stars are the same things. One of his freshmade coins dropped out of the water spout are the same things. One of his freshmade coins dropped out of the water spout are the same things. One of his freshmade coins dropped out of the water spout are the same things. One of his freshmade coins dropped out of the water spout are the same things. One of his freshmade coins dropped out of the water spout usually to graph the destroyed in this way, no one surviving to graph to the drug business.''

Broker—'I hear that you have gone into the drug business.''

Broker—'I hear that you have gone into the drug business.''

Broker—'I hear that you have gone into the destroyed in this way, no one surviving to graph to the drug business.''

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Broker—'I hear that you have gone into the dr



Leslie J. Perry.

serial parts already published can be got for \$56.10 in cloth. The atlas, when comserial parts already published can be got for \$56.10 in cloth. The atlas, when com-plete, will cost \$12, or 40 cents a part, there being thirty parts.

Supplemental to this vast mass of war

under the title of "War of the Rebellion, a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confectal Records of the Was the organizing genius of the whole great history, and before he died in 1887, after ten years' enthusiastic and unremitting service, he had compiled the material for thirty-six volumes of sixty-nine serial parts, although only forty-two parts were issued in his lifetime.

Supplemental to this vast mass of war records, now nearing completion, will be the "Naval Records of the Rebellion." which is about to be begun on a plan similar to that of the army records, though on a much smaller scale.

It will be seen on comparison that the "War of the Rebellion" surpasses in size any other work on a single subject extant, in this country or abroad. Encyclopaedias, of course, do not figure in such a comparison, strictly speaking, nor do bound volumes of continuing magazines and periodicals; but even waiving this distinction, the present work stands pre-eminent in point of ent work stands pre-eminent in point of bulk and number of volumes and amount of printed matter.

The British Museum not long ago received

a Chinese encyclopaedia in 2,000 volumes or thereabout, but it is to be remembered that a Chinese book printed from blocks cannot be likened to a modern European or American book, and, besides, the field covered by the prodigy in question is so wide that no comparison can properly be drawn between it and a work confined to one subject. Though very expensive in its production, the "Records of the Rebellion" does not ap-proach some other notable works in cost. Its actual cost, including printing, is figured at \$227 per set, whereas "The Account of Egypt," produced at the order of Napoleon I, cost 100,000 francs per set. This excessive cost, however, arose from the fact that the work was most gorgeously illus-trated with elaborate engravings on steel, colored by hand.

DECLINE OF MATERNITY.

Large Families of Children Rare Among the Upper Classes.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox in the Philadelphia Press. The general impression of the public seems to be that maternity is on the decline. The profession of the mother is in disrepute, and much concern is felt in consequence by the world at large. Extensive families of children are the exception, certainly among the upper American classes. Our wealthy society people do not produce numerous offspring. A life of absolute luxury and pleasure is not conducive to such a result. Then, too, malpractice by skilled "specialists," dearly bought and paid for, can account for many a childless woman of fashion, without doubt.

Late Marriages. The late marriage of American women, which has superseded the youthful revertes so prevalent in the days of our grandmothers, is still another cause. The girl

see results, and however deeply she may be impressed by nature with maternal in-stincts, she is burdened with the experiences of her friends, and avoids a repetied from all parts of the country. Many of ed waists and bouffant hips of belies in the

days of our grandmothers we fear the ar-The highly strung nervous temperament of American women renders childbearing so serious a matter that many avoid ma-

ternity—out of sheer fright.

In no other country in the world is the experience attended with so many dangers to health, and consequently to happiness. Men who note this fact from observation are averse to seeing their wives pass through the ordeal; and the great expense which is entailed by a large family of children is also a most important factor in withholding men from becoming fathers. Gifted people, or those of high mental en-dowments, are frequently childless, or the

parents of noticeably mediocre offspring. Children of Brainy People. This is a source of surprise and regret

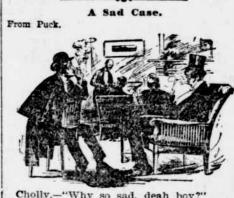
to the unthinking observer, who says, "what a strange pity that the people gifted with brains and blessed with money should produce no children, while the hard-working middle-classes and the very poor are so But let the fault finder dig deeper into the subject and he will change his

deas.
When the seed is planted in the earth it produces a plant—the plant produces a flower, the flower fruit, and the fruit seed s to produce a seedless fruit-delicious to is to produce a seedless fruit—delicious to the eye and palate, but useless beyond that. Nature achieves this result frequently in human beings. The exceedingly common-place man in some past generation has been distinguished only as productive original seed. His sons and daughters were sturdy plants. The grandchildren—less numerous—were fair flowers; from these flowers developed some one more piece of flowers developed some one more piece o able qualities of past generations—a genius, to startle, please or uplift the world. He achieves the object for which issued in the early fall of 1880, and since then, as stated above, 88 other serial parts self, not through his offspring, is he to behave been published, coming up to volume stow benefits upon the world. He is the extreme development of human culture-

a seedless fruit.
All that is strongest and best in his naume of the second series is now ready for the public printer, and the remaining volumes will be in shape within a few months. The atlas is also well advanced. It is issued in parts of five plates each, which are engraved in New York under contract. Twenty-three of these parts are now published, and the remaining seven will be lated to the present tree. He is the grand climax in the harmony which nature has been composing for generations, and his children will be but faint echoes of it. children will be but faint echoes of it.

American Men and Women. The highly educated American men and former generations. Talent is becoming almost universal amongst us; and as a consequence large families are diminishing. Meanwhile I see no reason why there should be such public concern over private matters of this kind. Save in the cases when malpractice has abetted a crime-an unpardonable crime for which the mother count hereafter-the world is not going to suffer through this decline of maternity spring statesmen, or actors, musicians,

groan under the oppression of tyrants of colossal intellectual power, as it now



ELECTRICAL PHENOMENA

Written for The Evening Star.



north of where it ordinarily is during January, the entire spheres of dazzling brilliancy. Such spheres were seen playing about during the great winter wheat region Louisville tornado. People on board of has been bare. Lack- ships have often observed balls of fire "as ing its accustomed blanket, that important crop has been exposed to destruction

have been sending to the weather bureau reports of out-of-the-way meterological phenomena unusually varied and peculiar. There have been showers of angle worms in New York and showers of snails in Ohio. A box full of the latter, to furnish proof, was sent to Washington by express. They were about the size of pinheads, and on examination they proved to be land snalls. Instead of falling from the sky, they must have been brought out of the made by a single stroke. they must have been brought out of the made by a single stroke. ground by the wet. Worms and small toads are fetched out of the earth under like constorms, and thus give rise to stories of is generally imagined. It kills sixty-nine of what used to be taken for sulphur occur country it has been reckoned to destroy in Washington every year. When the sky twenty-two lives annually, but this is prob-

sional prophets to solve. Take a simple ings were constantly struck.

One of the most interesting of electrical true and original type, familiar to dwellers between the Mississippi river and the

A very extraordinary phenomenon which occurs on mountain summits is the formation of what are called "frost feathers." with these crystals, which accumulate upon projecting points. On such points they pile up horizontally in the teeth of the wind, from all sides, but unequally, the result be forming exquisite feathery outgrowths ing a gyratory motion visible in the sand which a touch will destroy. The biggest or dust raised into the air. In other words, one on record, twelve feet in length. developed upon a chimney on Mount Washington, where these curiosities are found in greater perfection than anywhere In deep loamy or sandy soil, when the temperature has fallen below freezing, often are noticed beautiful little columns are noticed beautiful fittle columns above projecting upward one or two inches above the surface of the ground. They are probably forced up by the gradual contraction ably forced up by the gradual contraction of the soil. Sometimes they will push goodsized stones out of place.

Anchor Ice and Blood Showers. By no means so readily accounted for is the so-called "anchor ice," which occasionally forms in the bed of a rapid stream. Of course ice ordinarily forms first on the surface of water, but in this case the water at the bottom congeals while the stream flows over it. One theory is that the whole depth of water being cooled to below 32 degrees the more quiet layer at the bottom freezes sooner than that which is swiftly moving above. This explanation is not deemed satisfactory, however. The fact that ice ought to float cannot be got

over so easily.

No fewer than twenty-one showers of blood have been recorded during the pres-ent century in Europe and Algeria. These phenomena excited widespread consterna-tion in ancient and even in comparatively recent times. They were regarded as dire warnings and portents. Nevertheless they are accounted for by very commonplace reasons. In 1670 a shower of this kind fell at The Hague and caused great excitement.
A level-headed physician got a little of the crimson fluid and examined it under microscope. He found that it was fille with small red animalcules, which proved to be a species of water fiea. Doubtless they were brought from a great distance

by wind and deposited with the rain.

In March, 1813, the people of Gerace in Calabria saw a terrific cloud advancing from the sea. It gradually changed from a pale hue to a fiery red, shutting off the light of the sun. The town being enveloped in darkness the inhabitants rushed to the sun than a company of the sun to the cathedral, supposing that the end of the world was come. Meanwhile the strange cloud covered the whole heavens, and, amid peals of thunder and flashes of light hurried out to drive him back into his quarantee. The britte was as stubbern as any of ning, red rain fell in large drops, which were imagined by the excited populace to be of blood. Analyses afterward made of whither he liked—anywhere except in the the fluid showed that its coloring matter was a dust of an earthy taste. Probably this dust was ejected by an active volcano,

carried a great distance by the wind and precipitated with the rain.

There was a rain of ink in the city of Montreal on November 9, 1819. Some of the liquid, collected and forwarded to New York for analysis, was discovered to New York for analysis, was discovered to owe its hue entirely to soot. The explanation of it was that there had previously been immense forest fires south of the Ohio river, the season being remarkably dry, and the sooty particles from the conflagration had been conveyed by strong winds northward, so as to mingle with the rain when it fell.

Vegetable Matter in the Air. stance strange to the people. Cattle and sheep devoured it greedily, and bread was made from it. It proved to be a kind of the end bruising the side quite severely. The lichen. Large quantities of vegetable ma- hired man had, meanwhile, been getting in lichen. Large quantities of vegetable material are always floating in the air. Astronomers have frequently mistaken such organic bodies for meteorites as they passed across the field of the telescope. They were finaly discovered to be mostly the feathered seeds of plants carried by the breeze. Having been the first to find the breeze. Having been the first to find this out, W. R. Dawes of the Royal Astronomical Society adjusted the focus of his instrument so as to examine the seeds, which proved to belong to many different kinds of plants, such as thistles, dandelions and willows.

"Water Spout and Tornado. Small marine fishes are sometimes found scattered about on dry land far from sea.

ing up the finny creatures, together with and did not attempt to renew the battle, a portion of their native element, and car- retiring in as good order as their nerves rying them shoreward. Showers of frogs and general dishevelment would permit.

and the larvae of aquatic insects are proand the larvae of aquatic insects are produced in a similar fashion by tornadoes. formed into a tornado on reaching and passing over the land, so the "cyclone twister" will sometimes suck a pond dry in passing. In fact, the tornado and the passing. In fact, the tornado and the

train. Its mighty column, joining the clouds with the ocean, is mainly vapor, as is judged from the fact that physical laws would not permit the water to be sucked up to a greater height than thirty-three feet.

Tornadoes are the most extraordinary

Queer Freaks With Which the

Weather Bureau Has to Deal

FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

Frost Feathers and Anchor

Ice.

Lee.

Lee CTRICAL PHENOMENA

It has been reckoned that on an average each of them costs one life. That which struck Louisville in 1890 wiped out \$3,250,000 worth of property and 135 lives. The funnel-shaped cloud which does the damage runs at a speed of from forty to eighty miles an hour. It looks like an immense balloon, black as night, sweeping its neck round and round with terrible fury, and tearing everything to pieces in its path. Its track is always from southwest to northeast, the width of it being rarely over 300 feet. Warning of the storm's aproach is given by a still and sultry air, with a lurid or greenish sky. People feel depressed without knowing why.

Electric Phenomena.

This gas that covers the surface of the earth, by which we live by breathing, is a wonderful element. The electricity which pervades it, though employed for various HIS IS A FREAK useful purposes by man, is a mystery yet. winter. With the Some of its phases are astonishing and be snow line 500 miles youd explaining. For example, there is the most intense form of it known, termed globular lightning. It takes the form of

Electric Phenomena.

big as barrels" rolling along the surface of the ocean. These spheres are apt to burst with deafening reports. Tubes of glass made by lightning are of-ten found in sand. The electricity passes into the ground and melts the silicious maby the always possible sudden cold wave.
all over the country of the weather bureau he-way meterological people have sought for them and dug them up still hot from places freshly struck by lightning. Attempts have been made to re-produce them artificially, by passing a

Damage by Lightning.

Lightning does a great deal more damage ditions, appearing in great numbers after and is much more fatal to human life than rains of those creatures. Spring showers persons every year in France. In this clears the gutters are found choked with ably an underestimate. By a single flash yellow stuff. Under the microscope, how- 2,000 sheep were wiped out on one occasion ever, it is quickly seen to be vegetable. In in Ethiopia. In New Grenada is a place, fact, it is merely the pollen of pine trees blown from forests many miles distant,

Difficult Puzzles.

People in all parts of the United States are constantly reporting such freaks to the powder wining out a great part of the requirements of the powder wining out a great part of the requirements of the powder wining out a great part of the powder wining the pow are constantly reporting such freaks to the weather bureau, with demands for explanations. Often the puzzles thus propounded are too difficult for Uncle Sam's profestoral prophets to solve Take a simple

phenomena is the so-called St. Elmo's fire It appears in the shape of brush-like dis-Rocky mountains. Why is it that to a person caught in one of these storms it seems by sailors "corpse candles." If three of as if the wind came from all directions at them are seen at sea it signifies that the once? It blows straight in one's face, no matter which way one turns. Science has not been able to undo the riddle.

Then there is another kind of wind, very warm and dry, which blows at times over thick cloud, followed by a shower of hall; the eastern slopes of mountain ranges in the northwest. It is called the "chinook," land the same night the points of the spears of the fifth legion seemed to take fire." Columbus on his second voyage beheld several

Sand Storms in the West. In some of the desert regions of the west-notably the Painted Desert of Ari-A spot of ground becomes excessively heated, causing the air above it to ascend. was a sort of natural chimney is created, which there is a powerful up draught. Such whirling columns have very weird appearance as they move hither and thither, sometimes many of them at once, across the desert. One might im-agine them to be animated by evil spirits, and it is no wonder that people in India call them "deviis."

A peculiar phenomenon observed in various places, but most perfectly among the mountains of the Brocken in Germany, is the so-called "Brocken spectre." It is an enlarged shadow of the observer cast by the sun, near sunrise or sunset, upon the fog wish envelops him. Its enormous size makes the apparition rather startling. Presumably it is due to the fact that the shad ow is thrown upon the particles of moist-ure suspended in the air all along to the limit of vision.

freaks at this wintry season is the "silver thaw," which clothes the trees in shining ccats of ice, every twig sparkling in the sunlight. Yet few take the trouble to in-quire how this comes to pass. It is very simple. At the beginning of a thaw air, laden with water, passes over the boughs and twigs, and the moisture it contains is frozen upon them. Every year stories of great hall stones are circulated in the newspapers. Some as big as ele-phants are said to have fallen in India, and they have been fairly well authenticated. Unfortunately, however, these were doubt-less aggregations of hall stones partly RENE BACHE. melted together.

LIVELY FIGHT WITH A BOAR. Two Men Kept Busy for Two Hours

the Result Being a Draw. Milton D. Hollister of East Glastonbury, Conn., and his hired man had an experience the other morning the memory of which direction the men wished him to go. Mr. Hollister was armed with a five-tined fork, and the hired man was also armed, and it may be that the not over mild prodding with the fork maddened the animal. At all with the fork maddened the animal. At all events he turned upon his pursuers, and for a long time—thought to be fully two hours of the country this business claims the at--it was a question which would be masters of the situation.

The hog would give his attention to one of

his men, the other rushing to his assistance only to be himself pursued. At one time Mr. Hollister thrust the tines of his fork into the hog's wide open mouth, but the brute never faltered, bearing up against In 1824, in a district of Persia, there was an abundant shower of a nutritious subon him in a moment, tearing away at his clothing, which he completely riddled on the side where he gave most of his attention, in some lively work, and finally succeeded in drawing upon himself the fury of the mad-dened brute. The first serious mishap was when Mr. Hollister's hand strayed into the hog's mouth and he was severely bitten, the thumb and part of the hand being partly crushed. The hired man kept the boar at bay while some attention was given to the wound, and in the end was badly ten himself. The men were getting decid-edly the worst of the fight when deliverance came in an unexpected way. The battle-ground had been in a part of the yard around one side of which a stone wall had been laid several feet high and even with the land. His hogship had not observed this point of danger, and in one of his rushes he missed his footing and went They are transported by storms, which at headlong over this embankment, rolling first take the form of water spouts, suckfor some little time to come, but it is safe to say that neither he nor his hired man

THEIR BUSINESS FLOURISHES

Minting Counterfeit Silver in Bed Rooms.

HOW GOLD IS LOST



ness of counterfeiting paper money in

in Chicago the other day was wholly new. They made money by clipping double eagles in a manner as ingenious as it was novel. The process consisted in slicing off a rim from each \$20 piece, as a tire might be removed from a wheel. The corrugated edge, called the "reeding," being removed incidentally, the mutilated coin was then rereeded in a machine. Thus its appearance was perfectly restored, only the diameter being altered. Nothing wrong with it was discoverable by the casual observer. Of course, the faces were unaltered.

The persons engaged in this remunerative enterprise, for the sake of prudence, contented themselves with moderate profits. They took care not to rob any single coin of more than \$1 of its intrinsic value. Nevertheless, they were caught after having treated and restored to c rculation 600 uble eagles, representing \$12,000. Five hundred dollars worth of them reached the treasury at Washington last week, forwarded by a Chicago bank which desired paper money in exchange. That financial institution had not noticed anything wrong about them. Of course, they will be redeemed as so much bullion, to be afterward melted and reminted.

Sweating Gold Coin. In their aim for modest gains these people imitated sweaters of gold coin, who are usually satisfied with stealing about 75 cents' worth of metal from each \$20 piece. Employing the electric battery, this process removes a thin coat from the entire surface of the double eagle, which, to the average individual, has as good an appearance as before it underwent the operation. It is only the trained eye that takes note of a suspicious brightness, while to the touch the normal irregularities seem to be smoothed down. A method preferred by other criminals is to cut a hole in the edge.

Subjected to the chemistry of fire, yielding a small "button" of the precious material. At Tiffany's workshop in New York each artisan engaged in polishing gold stands in front of a big funnel, with a wide mouth, which has a strong suction draft. This draft takes in all dust and floating particles from the air. It swallows the filaments ground from the buffing wheels, and these, with whatever else has been caught, are deposited in a receptacle, forming a sort of felt. This felt is scraped out, pressed into bricks and burned, being thus made to yield the gold it contains. Incidentally, the workmen get pure air. In their aim for modest gains these peosmoothed down. A method preferred by other criminals is to cut a hole in the edge coin, through which a part of the This happens when the air seems clear, though after a while the coat of the observer becomes covered with tiny frost crystals. The atmosphere, in fact, is filled scale, but yielding sure results, the ore being 90 per cent pure.

False Silver Coins. While the counterfeiting of gold is not conducted on an extensive scale, the business of making false silver coins is going on continually all over the United States. The attractiveness of the industry consists largely in its simplicity. It requires little skill and no apparatus worth mentioning. Anybody can make a plaster-of-paris mold from a cartwheel dollar and thus turn out likenesses of the coin, using a mixture of base metals as raw material. Recipes for mixtures suitable for the purpose are passed about in penitentiaries and other penal institutions. In fact, petty counterfeiters are mostly educated in prisons. Having learned the trade while in durance vile, new apprentices start in for themselves as way chiefly has knowledge of the art been

Criminal Immigrants. The immigrants whom Uncle Sam so hos pitably welcomes to these shores are very commonly criminals in esse or in posse. Many of them find congenial employment in imitating the national currency. This applies particularly to Italians. Two-thirds of the foreign counterfeiters in this country are of that nationality. They do the work largely in their bed rooms, melting the metallic composition in a pot on the stove and filling the molds with a pewter ladle. The "stuff" is shoved to a great extent by venders of peanuts and fruit. They enjoy exceptional facilities for getting rid of bogus dimes and quarters. In dealing with these peddlers one does well to scrutinize one's change closely. Recently a number of such peripatetic merchants were brought to justice in Chicago. The district attorney there procured some of his evidence by handing a dollar to a banana man in payment for a ten-cent purchase. The entire lot of silver returned to him was counter-

The Boodle Carrier. A safer method, commonly adopted by the Italians for passing bad silver, is that in which the boodle carrier figures. His title sufficiently describes the part he takes in the performance. Following along behind the man who acts as "shover," he keeps the latter supplied with a single coin at a time. The "shover," having got rid of one, meets ceives another. If caught, he has no other counterfeit money in his possession and can plead ignorance. No wonder that these sons of Italy get rich and return to their native land after a few years, to spend the rest of their lives in the pursuit of elegant leisure.

the "hard dollar," as it is called. It is such a perfect imitation of the original coin that its appearance will deceive an expert on close examination. Even the acid test it withstands. Though a couple of grains light, abrasion might be supposed to account for that. In short, there is no way of proving it bad except to cut deep into it and then apply the acid. Obviously, it would then apply the acid. Obviously, it would be practicable to employ this math. then apply the acid. Obviously, it would scarcely be practicable to employ this method of inquiry with every "plunk" that one handles. This piece, which may be considered the finest coin counterfeit ever produced, was struck with dies and afterward plated in silver. Of the latter metal it has a coating worth 20 cents. In imitation silver powdered glass is ordinarily utilized to give An Accidental Discovery.

Credit for the work of art above described must be given to one William G. Hard. He owned to having manufactured and passed 10,000 of his dollars, nearly all of which are now in circulation and are likely to remain so without detection. He might still be engaged in producing them but for an accident. One day a letter car rier was going his rounds, when he saw s silver piece fall upon the pavement as if from the sky. He ran and grabbed it, but dropped it instantly, because it was almost red hot. This occurrence led to the dis-covery of Hard's workshop, in which he

Caused by Makers of False Coins.

Caused by Makers of False Coins. this industry are not content with moderate profits. The risk being great, proportionate gains are demanded. Besides, the false currency must pass through several hands ordinarily before getting into circulation. A report was spread recently that an en-terprise on the lines here indicated was to be started on a large scale in Mexico, but it was doubtless untrue.

Will the Gold Supply Be Exhausted? The two most eminent living writers on the precious metals, Suess and Soetbeer, have recently published a very alarming statement. It is to the effect that the total amount of gold dag out of the earth annually suffices only to supply the present demand for that valuable substance for use in the arts. Not a bit of the new product of the mines is available for cointhis country has been age. Trinket use and waste in manufacture age. Tripket use and waste in manufacture exhaust the whole yield. If this is correct, then gold must vanish from circulation before long, because the output of the gold mines of the world is diminishing rather than increasing, and there are few fields left to explore. But Uncle Sam's metallurgists say that it is not so. The writers quoted fail to consider the fact that the gold employed in the aris is utilized over and over rgain. It goes through a sort of cycle.

tion of gold pieces is done chiefly on the Pacific slope, where the yellow metal is commonly handled as currency. In the east there is comparatively little of it in circulation, and for that reason such of it as passes from hand to hand is closely scrutinized. No really first-rate counterfeit of a gold coin is at present extant, says Chief Drummond of the secret service.

The game practiced by a gang captured the yellow from the hands of dealers in old gold. Thus it is melted up eventually and reappears again in other shapes. This is what is termed the "invisible supply" of that metal. that metal.

Causes of Loss.

There are a number of unavoidable causes of loss of gold. The first and most important of these is by abrasion. Jewelry loses much weight in that way, especially rings, which are usually 18 carat, and are worn rapidly. Coins suffer much less, but still considerably from wear. All gold leaf is a total loss to the gold stock of the world. a total loss to the gold stock of the world. Where used for decorative purposes it is never recovered. It is not employed for filling teeth nearly so much as formerly, "porous gold" being substituted. But, of course, the gold utilized for teeth is a total loss, and in the aggregate it is enormous. If it be supposed that the average dweller in cities of this country has 50 cents' worth of gold in his or her mouth, which is placing the figure very low, it will be seen how great is the waste in this form. Each succeeding generation takes so many millions of dollars' worth of the metal from the world's stock in this way.

In Workshops. In Workshops.

Some gold is lost in remelting, though all possible means are taken to reduce it to the lowest possible figure. Not only are the floors swept and the dirt treated for the recovery of the yellow substance, but the wooden planks are burned eventually with the same object. Even the shoes of each man who works with the metal are subjected to the chemistry of fire, yielding Commercial Bricks

The gold that is utilized at the mint for sold to jewelers and others. But, as a matter of fact, they are used as money to a large extent by jewelers and bankers. They by the government with their exact value. Thus they are made to serve as big coins. Manufacturing jewelers find it convenient to utilize the ordinary money gold in their work, and they do so to a great extent, because the proportion of nine-tenths of gold and one-tenth copper is always the same and they know just what it will do in metallurgical work.

Great Nuggets.

The National Museum has recently placed

on exhibition gilded casts of many of the greatest nuggets of gold ever found. The biggest nuggets have come from Australia, and these are also the purest. They run up as high as 992-1000 fine. Greatest in size was the "Welcome," found at Ballarat. It weighed 2,218 ounces and was worth somewhat over \$41,000. Next comes the "Precious," found at Berlin, New South Walesvalued at \$30,340. It tipped the scales at 1,770 ounces. The "Viscount Canterbury" weighed 1,121 ounces and fetched \$22,000. The "Viscountess Canterbury" weighed 884 ounces and was valued at \$16,000. On the claim of a man named Schlemm, at Dunnolly, two great nuggets were found, weighing 538 ounces and the other nolly, two great nuggets were found, one weighing 538 ounces and the other 478 ounces. The former was worth \$10,000 and the latter \$9,000. The "Kum Toon," dug up at Berlin, weighed 718 ounces and was worth \$13,000. It was named after the Chinaman who discovered it. Another, likewise found by a Chinaman and called the "Kum Tow," sold for \$5,000, though only 249 ounces in weight, being very pure. The "Beauty," found at Bendigo, weighed 242 ounces and was valued at \$4,400. The "Needful," found at Berlin, weighed four ounces more than the last and brought about \$100 more. For many years geologists have been disputing as to how nuggets of gold are formed, but the mystery remains unsolved today. All of these masses of precious metal were long ago melted up and turned into coin, because it did not pay to have so much money lying idle. Their likenesses, embalmed into casts, remain to inspire with enthusiasm the hopeful prospector after wealth that is to be picked up pector after wealth that is to be picked up in chunks.

Some Animal Suicides

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
"Animals sometimes commit suicide," said B. F. Taney to the corridor man. "It is not common, but there are a number of wellauthenticated instances, and two of these are known to me personally. We had two canary birds which had been mates for several years. They occupied the same cage and exhibited unusual signs of affection for each other. One day the male bird as any state in the Union, but in that part of the country this business claims the attention of native Americans almost exclusively. False money is largely circulated in the south, where almost anything that bears a reasonably close resemblance to the national currency is readily accepted.

Dangerous Counterfeits.

Several dangerous silver counterfeits are in general circulation in this country at present. The most successful of them all is the "hard dollar," as it is called. It is such of suicide. The other instance was told to



Mrs. Mulcahey.-"Air yez chrazy, Dinnie